



#10 Election
Smm 3-25-03

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q53893

Vincent LETELLIER, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/297,382

Group Art Unit: 2633

Confirmation No.: 9694

Examiner: Dzung D. TRAN

Filed: April 30, 1999

RECEIVED

For: OPTICAL TRANSMISSION SYSTEM WITH COHERENT
OPTICAL TIME DOMAIN REFLECTOMETRY

MAR 25 2003

Technology Center 2600

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 19, 2002 in which the Examiner has required an election of species, Applicant elects Species II, sub-species A with traverse. Claims 9, 11-13, 16, 18-20, 23, 24, 26, and 27, as amended in the accompanying Amendment, are believed to be readable on Species II, sub-species A.

Applicant, however, submits that there should not be a requirement to elect either sub-species A or B of Species II, as sub-species A and B are both directed to widening the spectrum of a signal in order to reduce the interaction between a signal in one direction and the backscattered noise from the other direction. For example, the portion of the specification that the Examiner characterizes as corresponding to sub-species A, discloses widening the spectrum by providing wavelength modulation while the portion of the specification characterized by the Examiner as corresponding to sub-species B discloses widening the spectrum of a signal by

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providing phase modulation. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that there should be no requirement to elect either sub-species A or B of Species II, and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this requirement.¹

Applicant submits that if any of the elected claims are found to be allowable, claims dependent therefrom should similarly be considered allowable in the same application.

Applicant reserves the right to file a Divisional Application directed to the non-elected subject matter.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

¹ Claims 11-16 and 18-28 are believed to be readable on read on Species II. Claims 14, 15, 21, 22, 25, and 28 are believed to be readable on Species II, sub-species B.

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REMARKS

Prompt and favorable action on the elected claims are now respectfully requested. Also, please note that the claims in the present application are amended, as indicated in the accompanying Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: March 19, 2003



#10 Amelot C
SMW 3-25-03

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AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 19, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 10 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please enter the following amended claims:

9. (Amended) An amplified and non-bi-directional fiber optic link including optical loopback of the amplifiers to enable COTDR, said fiber optic link comprising means for widening the spectrum of the signal in at least one transmission direction, wherein said means for widening the spectrum comprises wavelength modulation means.